the country concerning six million blind people in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry as reported "feels exasperated by the 'unexplained' delay on the part of the Ministry of Health to start negotiations with the World Bank for this last offer" which took over a year and a half to take shape; and

(c) if so, full details thereof indicating as to who is responsible for jeopardising this ambitious project;

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir. But a misleading news item appeared in the Times of India dated January 30, 1994.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Resettlement of villagers in Kendrapara District, Orissa

*246. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of villages Satabhaya and Kahnupur under Kedrapara District (Orissa) have submitted a Memorandum to the Governor of Orissa on his recent visit to the affected area due to coastal erosion;

(b) whether Orissa Government has requested his Ministry according clearance to the resettlement of 393 families of above villages;

(c) what is the total land required for the resettlement of these families as per request of Government of Orissa and what is the total land offered by Government of Orissa in lieu of the proposed land for settlement for afforestation;

(d) whether the land in question for resettlement is adjacent to agricultural fields and there is no existence of any tree therein except weeds; and

(e) what is Government of India's reaction to this proposal in view of rapid sea erosion at Satabhaya and Kahnupur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHR KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the information received from the State Government of Orissa, villagers of Satabhaya and Kahnupur have submitted a representation to the Governor of Orissa during his recent visit to the area.

(b) and (c) Orissa State Government have sent a proposal for diversion of 532.97 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of 395 families of Satabhaya and Kahnupur villages in District Cuttack. The State Government has identified 654.066 ha. of non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land to be diverted for rehabilitation purposes in the present case.

(d) The entire area proposed for diversion comes under Mangrove ecosystem and forfs part of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary.

(e) After detailed examination of the proposal and site inspection of the forest area involved, the State Government have been requested to send a revised proposal for resettlement of these villagers.

Construction of Railway Station in Ashok Vihar, Delhi

*247. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a provision to construct a railway station in Ashok Vihar, Delhi, to meet the requirement of a large number of people residing in Ashok Vihar, Shali-

mar Bagh, Lawrence Road and other adjoining colonies;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative whether Government propose to construct the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does no arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Allocation of natural gas to Gujarat

*248. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of natural gas available from the offshore gas fields in the State of Gujarat;

(b) what is the quantity of gas allocated to Gujarat for power projects every year;

(c) whether the gas allocated to the State during 1993 was less in comparison to 1992; and

(d) what is the quantity of gas that will be allocated to Gujarat State during the year 1994 for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) 7.96 MMSCMD of gas from the Western offshore fields was supplied to projects in the State of Gujarat during April, 1993 — February, 1994. 7.55 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to the power projects in Gujarat. The allocations are not made yearwise.

False cases against freedom fighters

*249. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any representations from some Members of Parliament during the last two years and also from others alleging that politically motivated cases were instituted by CBI against some freedom fighters of Gaya (Bihar) and requesting that these cases may be withdrawn; and

(b) if so, what action was taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Some representations from Members of Parliament and others alleging institution of politically motivated cases by CBI against Shri Rana Muneshwar Kumar Singh, a freedom fighter from district Gaya (Bihar), and requesting withdrawal of the case against him were received during the last two years.

Government had decided, on 6.12.1990, to drop the case against Shri Singh on the basis of the report of the Investigative Agency.

Seeking foreign collaboration by ONGC

*250. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission Limited, has sought foreign technical and financial collaboration for the 'additional development' programme of the Bombay High field;

(b) if so, what are the names of foreign collaborators and the estimated cost and details of the 'AD' programme;

(c) whether Government have received any replies from these concerns;